

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated June 17, 2005, claims 1-26 were pending. Of those claims, claims 22-26 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-12 and 14-21. Claim 13 stands rejected.

In this Amendment, claim 13 has been amended to recite "a lookup table that has an arbitrary individual color within a multi-dimensional color space as input." Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the amendment can be found on, for example, page 18, line 24 to page 20, line 9 of the Specification ("Modification 2").

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kitamura.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner asserted that Kitamura discloses an apparatus for processing a linework image identically corresponding to what is claimed. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that Kitamura discloses "a lookup table that has an arbitrary individual color as input and a color number indicating one among plural representative colors as output," recited in claim 13, because in Fig. 13 of Kitamura, Ns values correspond to the claimed "individual color" and Nd values correspond to the claimed "color number."

In response, Applicants have amended claim 13 to recite "a lookup table that has an arbitrary individual color within a multi-dimensional color space as input and a color number indicating one among plural representative colors as output" (emphasis showing the change).

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Applicants submit that Kitamura does not disclose that the Ns values are “within a multi-dimensional color space.”

Accordingly, Kitamura does not disclose an apparatus for dividing an image region of a color including all the limitations recited in claim 13. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and favorable consideration thereof.

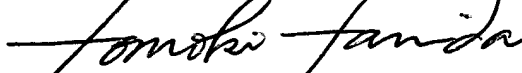
Conclusion.

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

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